

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:

Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING:

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2006, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2nd Floor, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Mike Eckert and Gordon Scholz. (JoAnne Kissel, Thomas Saddler, Scott Sullivan, Kim Todd and Mary Anne Wells absent.)
Others: Clay Buell (Citizen); Dan Marvin (City Council); Bob Kawamoto (Police Department); Jeff Cole and Ernie Castillo (Urban Development); Ed Zimmer, Mike DeKalb and Michele Abendroth of the Planning Department.

**STATED PURPOSE
OF MEETING:**

Regular Urban Design Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

Approval of meeting notes of August 2, 2006

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting notes were not voted upon.

Proposed amendment to sign codes regarding electronic message signs (Planning)

Mike DeKalb stated that they are presenting an amendment to the sign code. There was a request from LaMar Signs for an LED display on billboards. They would like to rotate images. There will be no flashing lights, and the images would be static. The City is doing a lighting study and one of the things that came up was the brightness of illuminated ground signs. Some of the existing signs exceed the light level that is required in the code. They have an amendment which will go to Planning Commission on September 27. They are trying to provide for the new technology but also have limitations as to what is allowed. He presented a short video of various signs in the City.

Scholz asked if there are limitations on where the signs can be placed. DeKalb stated that currently there are not. However, because of the size and weight of the full size signs, they can only locate them on the large monopoles.

Design principles for South Street business corridor, 7th St. to 17th St. (Ernie Castillo, Urban Development Dept.)

Ernie Castillo stated that Clark Enersen developed and began a streetscape design on South Street about a year ago, of which they have completed about 99%. Recently, crime, safety issues and parking have become a concern. They widened the overall scope to a blight study, which was adopted by the City Council a couple months ago. The redevelopment plan should go to City Council within a couple months. From the redevelopment plan, design guidelines have been explored. A committee was formed which consists of neighborhood representatives, business owners and property owners. He distributed a draft of the design principles. There are several interests, most recently from the businesses. They would

work with a developer for the redevelopment agreement. But there is nothing in that agreement as to what the building would look like, what type of materials would be used, the sidewalk, etc. The design guidelines will be part of the redevelopment plan. They will use a checklist to determine whether or not a guideline is met.

Scholz asked if the committee that was formed supports the design principles. Castillo stated that there is general support for all of the principles listed.

Scholz asked if this would be the first redevelopment plan that would have design principles as part of the plan. Zimmer stated that he believes this is the first plan that states design principles in this manner.

Zimmer stated that the redevelopment plan will be on the Urban Design Committee agenda next month.

Downtown streetscape issues (Jeff Cole, Urban Development Dept.)

Police Captain Bob Kawamoto explained that there is a problem with transients in downtown making use of benches for sleeping or congregating on them and engaging in illegal activities, such as aggressive panhandling, drinking or other aggressive behavior. They would like to get seating which does not allow for reclining. What occurs in many cities as a result of these activities is that they have a no camping or no sleeping ordinance, which does not allow people to lay on the sidewalks in the downtown. Lincoln may explore that type of ordinance. This is an issue with the downtown businesses especially at 14th and P where there are large congregations of people.

Eckert asked if there is an enforcement mechanism. Kawamoto stated that they are doing everything that is within their ability, but for those individuals who want to congregate on that corner, there is no enforcement that can take place.

Scholz asked if Downtown Lincoln Association has discussed this issue. Kawamoto stated that they would like to see benches that do not allow for reclining. Cole stated that they have looked at what other communities have done.

Eckert asked who would purchase the new benches. Cole stated that the current benches have been purchased with several funding sources, so funding would be a concern.

Kawamoto stated that his purpose today was to make the Committee aware of this problem.

Downtown Design Standards discussion, continued (Ed Zimmer, Planning)

This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Annual Election of UDC officers

Due to the lack of a quorum, this item was not voted upon.

The meeting concluded at 4:38 p.m.

***Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Urban Design Committee. ***